



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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EASLEY MAKES APPOINTMENTS TO YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has appointed **Keith E. Gardner** of Franklinton, **Vanessa Purefoy** of Mathews, **Jeffrey Alan Van Dyke** of Raleigh and **Tarsha Wiggins-Banister** of Durham and reappointed **Archie Jones** of Whitakers to the North Carolina State Youth Advisory Council.

Gardner is an English teacher at C.A. Dillon Training School for the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He is also a mentor and director of the Educe Mentorship Program for At-Risk Adolescent Males. Gardner received his bachelor's degree from Saint Augustine's College and attended graduate school at N.C. Central University.

Purefoy is a help desk analyst for Moore and Van Allen PLLC in Charlotte. Previously, she has worked for First Union, Square D Co. in Monroe and GlaxoWellcome. Purefoy received her bachelor's degree from N.C.C.U. in 1987.

Van Dyke is the executive director for governmental affairs for BellSouth Telecommunications. Previously, he was a reporter for United Press International, *The Daily Courier* in Forest City and *The Gaffney Ledger* in Gaffney, S.C. Van Dyke received his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and his master's degree from UNC Chapel Hill.

Wiggins-Banister is an assistant manager for Community Management Corporation in Durham. Previously, she was a public relations assistant for Livingstone College. Wiggins-Banister received her bachelor's degree in child development and family relations from N.C.C.U. in 2003.

Jones has been a council member since 2000. He is a human relations specialist for the city of Rocky Mount. He is the treasurer for the Twin Rivers chapter of the American Red Cross and treasurer for the Council of Community Services in Nash and Edgecombe counties.

The council advises youth councils in the state, encourages state and local councils to take an active part in governmental and civic affairs, promotes and participates in leadership and citizenship programs and cooperates with other youth-oriented groups. They receive on behalf of the Department of Administration and recommend expenditure of gifts and grants from public and private donors. There are 20 members on the council, each serving a 2-year term. The governor appoints 10 members.

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